



parent guards the eggs and young until late July or August.

Habitats

constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; natural lakes and prairie marshes; Mississippi River; interior rivers and streams

Iowa Status

uncommon; native

Iowa Range

statewide except the northwest corner

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

yellow bullhead

Ameiurus natalis

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Family:	Cypriniformes
Order:	Ictaluridae

Features

The yellow bullhead is light olive brown to yellow above with a white or creamy belly. Like other catfish, it has four pairs of barbels (whisker-like projections) around the mouth, no scales, and an adipose (fat) fin located near the tail fin. It also has a spine at the front of the dorsal and pectoral fins. It is the only catfish with white or cream-colored, rather than black, barbels. The tail is rounded. Individuals weighing as much as two pounds have been taken from the Mississippi River.

Natural History

The yellow bullhead is found mostly in lakes and ponds, but occasionally is found in the Mississippi River or larger interior rivers in clearer water. Adults eat insects, crustaceans, small snails and clams, crayfish, and small fish. It spawns in May or early June in a nest built by the male. The female deposits 2,000 to 7,000 eggs. Eggs hatch in five to 10 days. A